



Greene County Public Health

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Press Release

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Greene County Public Health Shares Prevention Measures for Coronavirus

Fact Sheet Available on Website & Information Being Shared on Social Media

XENIA, OH – Greene County Public Health, along with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus first identified in Wuhan, China. Chinese authorities identified the new coronavirus, which has resulted in hundreds of confirmed cases in China and additional cases being identified in a growing number of countries internationally. Six cases have been reported in the United States. The patients recently returned to the United States from Wuhan, China. There are ongoing investigations to learn more.

While the source of the virus was probably animals, it is now spreading person-to-person. It's unclear how easily this virus is spreading between people.

While there are two suspect or “possible” cases being investigated at Miami University in Butler County, no confirmed cases have been reported in Ohio to date. Updates on any future Ohio cases may be found on the Ohio Department of Health website: <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/Novel-Coronavirus/resources/Novel-Coronavirus-resources>

Right now, the novel coronavirus has not been spreading widely in the United States, so there are no additional precautions recommended for the general public. However, in an effort to keep families well informed of this rapidly evolving situation, Greene County Public Health would like to remind residents of the following steps you can take to prevent the spread of flu and the common cold (also a type of coronavirus):

- Wash hands often with soap and water. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home while you are sick and avoid close contact with others.
- Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid shaking hands to limit germ transmission – use a fist bump instead.

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Currently, there are no vaccines available to prevent novel coronavirus infections.

Public Health has provided a fact sheet about the 2019 Novel Coronavirus on its website: http://healthalert.gcph.info/public_alerts/coronavirus and you can also visit the CDC's website <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> to learn more. Information will also be shared regularly on Greene County Public Health's social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

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